

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2014  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 2014  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 11, 2013  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 4, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 5**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Gomez**

January 17, 2013

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 5—Relative to National *Multicultural* Cancer Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 5, as amended, Gomez. National *Multicultural* Cancer Awareness Week.

This measure would designate the week of April 20 to 26, 2014, inclusive, as National *Multicultural* Cancer Awareness Week, encourage the promotion of policies and programs that seek to reduce cancer disparities and, as a result, improve cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and followup care for all Californians, and urge the President and the Congress of the United States to recognize National *Multicultural* Cancer Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, National *Multicultural* Cancer Awareness Week  
2 has been observed across the country each year since 1987 in an  
3 effort to bring attention to the disparities of cancer among  
4 medically underserved populations; and

1 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society is participating in  
2 National *Multicultural* Cancer Awareness Week to highlight the  
3 disparities in cancer burdens and to encourage public and private  
4 sector commitments in helping eliminate these disparities; and

5 WHEREAS, California is the most populous and ethnically and  
6 culturally diverse state in the country, and thus, is in a position to  
7 provide leadership for the nation to address the reduction of the  
8 incidence of cancer among all races, ethnicities, and genders; and

9 WHEREAS, In California, disparities exist in knowledge about  
10 cancer, cancer survival, and access to early detection, high-quality  
11 treatment, health care coverage, and health care. Social inequities  
12 also exist, including differences in occupational hazards,  
13 environmental exposures to pollution and other toxins, access to  
14 education, nutrition, physical activity, safe neighborhoods, healthy  
15 food options, and other factors that contribute to an increased or  
16 reduced risk of cancer; and

17 WHEREAS, The risk of developing and dying from cancer  
18 varies considerably among different cultural populations in  
19 California. The medically underserved are often diagnosed at later  
20 stages, and with a higher incidence of cancers with higher  
21 mortality, such as lung cancer, and are more likely to receive  
22 delayed health care; and

23 WHEREAS, Cancer is the leading cause of death among Latinos,  
24 Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders, and is the second leading  
25 cause of death for most other Californians; and

26 WHEREAS, In California, African American males have the  
27 highest overall cancer incidence and mortality rates. African  
28 American women are more likely to die of breast cancer, although  
29 non-Hispanic white women are the most likely to be diagnosed  
30 with the disease. African Americans have substantially higher rates  
31 of cancers of the stomach, small intestine, liver, and larynx,  
32 myeloma, and Kaposi's sarcoma than non-Hispanic whites. African  
33 American men are at especially high risk for prostate cancer, more  
34 than any other racial and ethnic group; and

35 WHEREAS, In California, lung cancer is the most common  
36 cancer among Laotian and Vietnamese men, while prostate cancer  
37 is the most common cancer for men in most other ethnic groups.  
38 Colorectal cancer is the most common cancer among Kampuchean  
39 and Korean men. Despite an overall statewide decline in colorectal  
40 cancer rates from 1988–2008, incidence sharply increased among

1 Koreans and Vietnamese. Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and  
2 Latinos have substantially higher rates of liver and stomach cancer  
3 than other groups. Vietnamese women have much higher rates of  
4 cervical cancer than non-Hispanic white women. Asian Americans  
5 have among the lowest rates of screening for breast, cervical, and  
6 colorectal cancers. There remains a lack of data about factors  
7 related to cancer, cancer control, and effective interventions among  
8 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and

9 WHEREAS, In California, Latinos have substantially higher  
10 rates of stomach and liver cancers than other Californians. Latinos  
11 have higher rates of acute lymphocytic leukemia and cervical  
12 cancer than non-Hispanic whites. Latinos have the highest  
13 likelihood of being medically uninsured, which can create serious  
14 barriers to screenings, early detection, and treatment. Latino women  
15 have the highest risk of developing cervical cancer, significantly  
16 higher, than non-Hispanic white women, African American women,  
17 Asian American women, and Pacific Islander women; and

18 WHEREAS, Members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and  
19 transgender community are at greater risk for cancer, face specific  
20 challenges accessing quality health care because of insurance  
21 policies that fail to cover same-sex partners, and may hesitate to  
22 access health care because of previous discrimination in health  
23 care settings. Lesbians have fewer mammograms, pelvic  
24 examinations, and Pap smear tests than heterosexual women. There  
25 remains a lack of data about factors related to cancer, cancer  
26 control, and effective interventions in the lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
27 and transgender community; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved, by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
29 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature urges the President and  
30 the Congress of the United States to recognize “National  
31 *Multicultural Cancer Awareness Week*”; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares the week of April 20 to  
33 26, 2014, inclusive, as “National *Multicultural Cancer Awareness*  
34 *Week*,” within the State of California, and encourages the  
35 promotion of policies and programs that seek to reduce cancer  
36 disparities and, as a result, improve cancer prevention, detection,  
37 treatment, and followup care for all Californians; and be it further

38 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
39 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
40 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the

- 1 Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative
- 2 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the
- 3 author for appropriate distribution.